



Douglas M. Duncan
County Executive

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Pool Safety

Recently, there have been several near-drowning incidents in Community/Public Pools in Montgomery County. Drowning is the second leading cause of unintentional injury-related death to children ages 14 and under, taking nearly 1,000 children's lives each year. For every drowning, it is estimated that there are four near-drownings that result in hospitalization.

Community and Residential Pool Safety Tips

- Take Swimming lessons and learn CPR
- Play it safe around water. Stay out if there is no lifeguard or grown-up around.
- Swim only when rested.
- Always swim with a buddy.
- Young children should always swim with an adult.
- Never eat candy or chew gum when you are swimming – You could choke.
- Get out of the water, and seek appropriate shelter, if you hear thunder or see lightning.
- Do not mess around! Running, pushing, or shoving people can cause serious injury to you or your friends. Follow posted rules.
- Always raise your hands over your head when diving.
- Consider “water wings” or other similar flotation devices for young children.
- Regularly check that the gate latches securely and that the spring mechanisms work properly.
- Do not allow children to “play” in the pool area. Remove all toys or anything a child might want to get from the vicinity.
- Post the 911 emergency number in the pool area.
- Keep lifesaving equipment, such as a pole, life preserver and rope – in the pool area. Hang them from a fence or wall so people will not trip on them.
- Have a phone handy in the pool area. DO NOT answer the phone while your children are in the pool; use the phone only in emergencies to call 911.
- NEVER leave children unattended in the pool area. In the time it takes to sign for a package at your front door (4 to 6 minutes), a child submerged in the pool can sustain permanent brain damage.
- Encourage your neighbors with pools to follow pool safety guidelines, including keeping their back gates and doors locked, and their pool gates secure.
- When at a Public/Community pool adults should always supervise their children – even with a lifeguard present.

MCFRS Residential Pool Safety Hotline 240.777.2239

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“Together We Can Save Lives And Prevent Injuries”